

REMARKS

The present application has been amended to put it into a condition for allowance. The rejected claims have been cancelled with the exception of Claims 22-24 that have been amended to be dependent upon allowed Claims 8. Claims 22-24 have also been amended to conform their recitation to the recitation in Claim 9. There has been no introduction of new matter.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3 and 5-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pikor (United States Patent 3,839,006). Claims 1-3 and 5-6 have been canceled and this rejection is no longer applicable. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claims 21-24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pikor (United States Patent 3,839,006). Claim 21 has been canceled and claims 22, 23, and 24 have been amended to be dependent from allowed Claim 9, and these claims are patentable for the same reasons that Claim 9 is patentable. Accordingly, this rejection is no longer applicable, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claims 1-3 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gallagher (United States Patent 5,831,242). Claims 1-3 and 6 have been canceled and this rejection is no longer applicable. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Barnhart (United States Patent 6,413,476). Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 have been canceled and this

rejection is no longer applicable. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnhart (United States Patent 6,413,476) as applied to claim 2, and further in view of Theilacker et al. (United States Patent 5,138,138). Claim 4 has been canceled and this rejection is no longer applicable. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Summary

The applicant believes the present amendment puts the present application into condition for allowance with pending Claims 9-15, 17, 18, 22-24. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow the present pending claims.

Respectfully submitted;

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